

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN WILLIAM CRISMORE**, on March 30, 1999
at 1:50 P.M., in Room 331 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. William Crismore, Chairman (R)
Sen. Dale Mahlum, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Mack Cole (R)
Sen. Lorents Grosfield (R)
Sen. Tom Keating (R)
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
Sen. Glenn Roush (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Ken Miller (R)
Sen. Mike Taylor (R)
Sen. Bill Wilson (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Larry Mitchell, Legislative Branch
Jyl Scheel, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SJ 20, 3/30/99
Executive Action: SJ 20

HEARING ON SJ 20

Sponsor: SENATOR BEA MCCARTHY, SD 29, ANACONDA

Proponents: None.

Opponents: None.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SENATOR BEA McCARTHY, SD 29, ANACONDA, presented **SJ 20**. This resolution is a result of the Legislative Council on River Governance meeting in Spokane, Washington, two weeks ago. The Idaho Legislature asked for support of a resolution they passed through their legislature. The resolution endorses Idaho's position in supporting healthy stocks of Native Anadromous Fish and opposing flow augmentation and the removal of dams on Idaho and Montana rivers and tributaries that are a part of the Columbia River Basin.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

SENATOR STEVE DOHERTY, SD 24, GREAT FALLS, stated this resolution is absolutely not necessary. The Corp of Engineers is studying the process of dam removal. In order to do it they would have to do a draft environmental impact statement. It is at least two to three years ahead. Ice Harbor is the only dam which has anything to do with irrigation. There is no flood control and marginal hydro power. It may be the smartest economic thing to do to breach one or more of those dams. This resolution says they are not going to think about doing the smart thing.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR COLE questioned if the endorsement is just supporting the Idaho delegation and are they opposing the removal of any dams in Idaho? **SEN. McCARTHY** stated they are proposing the removal of four dams in Idaho and they are actually opposing the study of the removal. She also agrees this resolution is a little premature. Idaho asked that Montana support them and, as a member of the Governance Group, they agreed.

Closing by Sponsor:

SENATOR BEA McCARTHY, SD 29, ANACONDA, stated through this resolution we are acting on the wishes of the Idaho delegation.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 20

Motion/Vote: **SEN. MAHLUM** moved that **SJ 20 DO PASS**. Motion carried 7-1 with Cocchiarella voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 1:55 P.M.

SEN. WILLIAM CRISMORE, Chairman

JYL SCHEEL, Secretary

WC/JS

EXHIBIT (nas71aad)